



Background and Objectives: As part of the California Water Plan Update 2013 collaboration process, regional Forums will be convened. The regional approach will facilitate interaction with local and regional partners and stakeholders engaged in water management programs and issues. While this approach initially built upon the regional workshops and outreach for Update 2009, the intent for the regional Forums is much broader. ***The primary objective of regional engagement is to support integrated water management – water supply, flood management, IRWM planning and decision-making – at local, regional and statewide levels.***

Expected to meet up to four times a year (depending on local interest), the Forums will discuss water management programs and planning needs relevant for each hydrologic region – whether associated with local, state, Tribal, or federal programs and efforts. These discussions will inform Water Plan Update 2013 and support integrated water management and planning through the following activities:

- Better depiction of regional and statewide resource management objectives required to identify proper resource management strategies.
- Increase the relevance, equity and effectiveness of State resource planning and policymaking with respect to California's extreme regional variability.
 - Share information on water-related statewide programs and programmatic priorities
 - Bring local and regional perspectives on integrating State agency processes and deliverables
 - Roll local data and efforts into regional reports/plans, including land use information
- Identify feasible and preferable policies and actions from local and regional perspective
 - Focus on shorter-term planning horizons for local and regional planning needs
 - Highlight local planning and implementation priorities
 - Increase regional specificity and emphasis of water management strategies and programs

Approach: The regional Forums will provide multiple opportunities for interaction and engagement with diverse interests, groups and individuals regarding water management and planning programs. These Forums will provide opportunities to discuss local and regional conditions, perspectives and solutions related to water management and planning.

One Forum will be created for each of the 12 hydrologic regions/areas of interest in California. (See the map at <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/maps/regions.pdf>) The over-arching objective for the regional Forums is to support integrated water management and planning decisions; with particular regard for the unique conditions, objectives and available solutions in each region.

The Forums and various sub-committees will generate information and ideas that can carry forward into water management and planning efforts, including IRWM planning, FloodSAFE and Update 2013. Following are examples of discussions and work products emerging from the Forums:

- Articulating regional resource management objectives
- Identifying and recommending potential policies and actions that can support resource management objectives



- (Deliverables for local and regional water-related programs and efforts)
- (Deliverables for water-related state programs)
- Planning and preparing the content of the Update 2013 Regional Reports
- Suggestions for cross-cutting linkages related to Update 2013 activities: Topic Caucuses, Public Advisory Committee, Tribal Advisory Committee, and State Agency Steering Committee
- Providing direction and agenda items for future Forum agendas and content

The regional Forums represent a new approach for regional dialog. This approach is flexible and will be modified as needed to better support local and regional water planning efforts. After the first year, an assessment will be conducted to identify next steps and suggested changes.

Role of Forum Design Teams

Each regional Forum will be supported by a Design Team composed of regionally based stakeholders. Initially, these teams will focus on:

- Developing and refining the Regional Forum approach and scope of work
- Discussing performance measures that evaluate Forum success
- Identifying and conducting outreach to interests, organizations and individuals who should be involved with, or aware of, the Regional Forums

As the Forums evolve, Forum Design Team members will also assist in identifying necessary work products, working sub-committees, and agenda design and direction for the (up to quarterly) Forum meetings.

Forum Design Team members will include interested representatives of local and regional stakeholders; local, Tribal and State agencies, organizations and associations; and individuals involved with – or interested in – ;water management, planning and implementation. Forum Design Teams will be assisted by a Public Advisory Committee liaison, DWR Regional Coordinators, and facilitation support.

Next Steps

A pilot regional Forum is proposed for one of the hydrologic areas associated with each Regional Office. (This results in an initial round of 4 regional Forums.) These first Forums would occur in the Spring of 2011. The remaining Forums would occur within 2 months of the initial Forum meetings.

Forum Design Team meetings

The four Design Teams associated with the hydrologic regions (selected for the initial round of Forums) would meet in February and March. Each session would likely last for about two hours, using a conference call and webinar format --- with physical meeting space available (likely at the Regional Offices). Forum Design Team members would:

- Review updated meeting materials and overall scope for Regional Approach
- Identify and assist with targeted outreach for the initial Forum meetings



Regional Forum meetings

A three-hour meeting agenda is anticipated for the Forum meetings. The Forums would also use a conference call and webinar format, with physical meeting space available. Participants will include local and regional interests and agencies, and staff from various DWR programs as well as other State agencies. Meeting materials will be posted online at least 10 days in advance

Anticipated Timeline: 2011

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN - AUG
Regional Approach: Public Kick-off: Fri., Feb. 4 th 9:30 – noon OR Wed., Feb 9 th 1 - 3:30 p.m.	Design Team meetings (2 per region)			Initial 4 Forums	Remaining 8 Forums (1 st Round)